

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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S/S:A.OTTO

NEA:MAUSTRIAN

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O 150122Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 174940

EXDIS

FOL RPT AMMAN 3707 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 14

QUOTE: S E C R E T AMMAN 3707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO US SA SY

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING-AIR DEFENSE AND LEBANON

1. KING WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME BY TELEPHONE LATE EVENING JULY 14
LOCAL. RAISED TWO SUBJECTS: AIR DEFENSE AND TALK WHICH HE HAD
JUST COMPLETED WITH ASAD OVER TELEPHONE ABOUT LEBANON.

2. ON AIR DEFENSE HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER CABLE
FROM HIS AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA SAYING THAT SAUDIS HAD BRIEFED
HIS AMBASSADOR ON TALK WHICH THEY HAD HAD WITH AMBASSADOR PORTER
IN JIDDA. KING WAS INFORMED THAT US IN JIDDA KNEW NOTHING
ABOUT PROPOSAL WHICH I HAD MADE TO HIM TEN DAYS AGO BEFORE HE
WENT TO JIDDA. I SAID THAT I HAD RECEIVED NO REPORTS
ABOUT WHICH I COULD GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION BUT THAT IT SEEMED

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UNUSUAL THAT SAUDIS HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE NOT ABLE

TO TALK WITH THEM IN JIDDA ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL TO JORDAN.
I TOLD THE KING I WOULD SEND OUT A TELEGRAM IMMEDIATELY AND SEEK
RESPONSE.

3. YOU ALREADY HAVE MY RECOMMENDATION THAT I BRIEF KING ON FACT
THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH SAUDIS AND THAT WE WILL PROVIDE SAUDIS
WITH DETAILS OF OUR PROPOSAL. I RECOMMEND EARLY APPROVAL OF LOW
KEY APPROACH TO KING TO END UNCERTAINTY HERE WHICH MIGHT WELL
RESULT IN FURTHER FOUL UP IF LEFT UNCLARIFIED.

4. KING ALSO REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM
PRESIDENT ASAD. LINE WAS UNCLEAR, KING SAID, BUT WHAT HE MADE OUT
WAS THAT LAST MEETING IN CAIRO OF ARAB LEAGUE GOT ABSOLUTELY
NOWHERE. KING SAID THAT ASAD HAD BECOME CONCERNED THAT LEVEL
OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON WAS GROWING, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE
CUBANS. KING DEFINITELY SAID THAT ASAD HAD CLAIMED THAT HE
EXPECTED CUBANS TO BECOME INVOLVED ON SIDE OF PLO AND LEFTISTS.
KING SAID "WHAT RIGHT HAVE THEY TO INTERVENE HERE, THIS IS NOT
AND CANNOT BECOME ANOTHER ANGOLA. IF THEY COME IN YOU KNOW WHAT
ACTION I WILL HAVE TO TAKE TO STOP THEM". KING THEN SAID HE HAS
NOTHING
ON HIS OWN TO CONFIRM WHAT ASAD HAD TOLD HIM, BUT DID ASK
SPECIFICALLY
IF WE COULD GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION WHAT BACK
IMMEDIATELY WHICH WE MIGHT HAVE WHICH WOULD CONFIRM OR DENY
POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. I TOLD KING I WOULD
BE IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY AND SEEK ANY RESPONSE WHICH
THEY COULD OFFER IN LIGHT OF WHAT HE REPORTED.

5. KING ALSO REPORTED HE WILL BE GOING TO IRAN TO
VISIT SHAH IN NEXT TWO DAYS.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
PICKERING

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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